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1887 1937

Division of Sociology & Rural Life
Mississippi State College
State College, Miss.

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50 th

Anniversary

OF

MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

JULY 11-17, 1937

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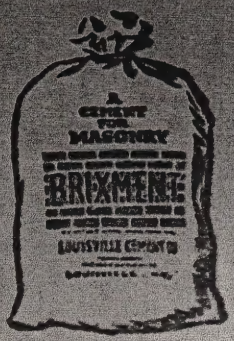

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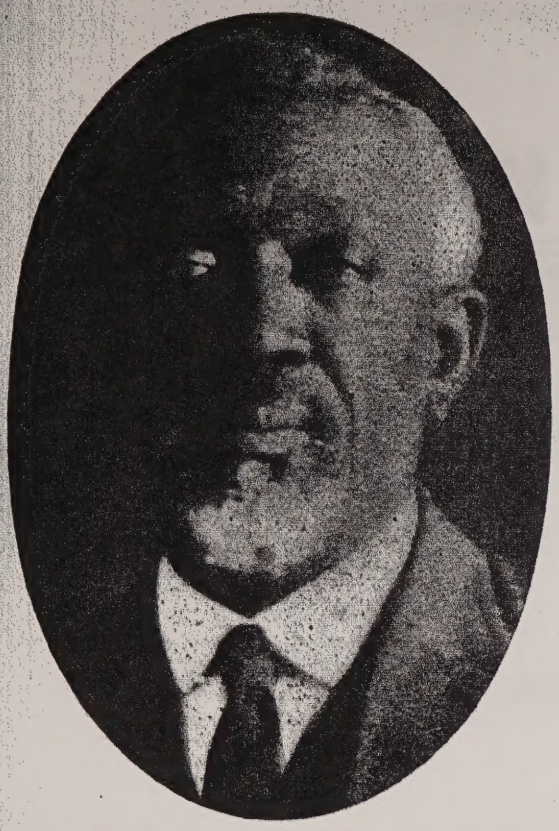
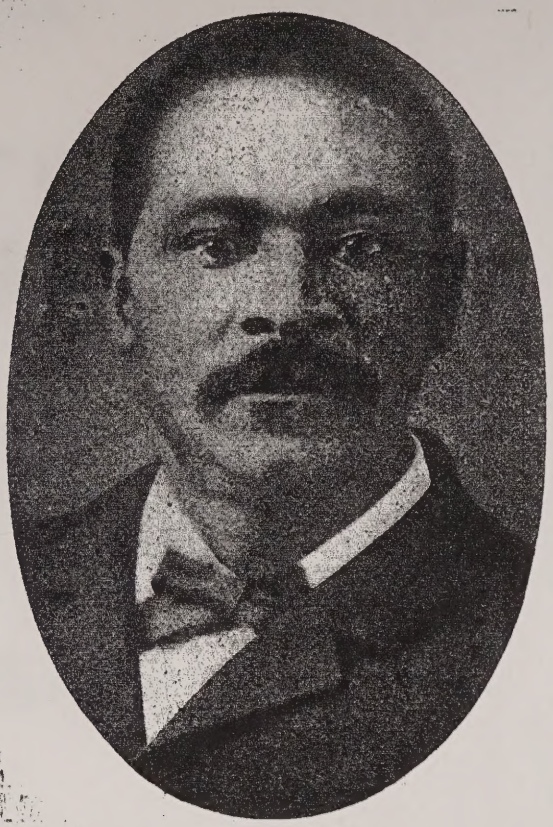


ISAIAH T. MONTGOMERY



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BENJAMIN A. GREEN

Chairman Citizens' Committee

BENJAMIN A. GREEN, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee, was the first child born in the Town of Mound Bayou. His early education was obtained in the Public School and Normal College of Mound Bayou and at Alcorn College. In 1909 he was graduated from Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., with an A. B. degree. Graduated in law at Harvard Law School in 1914. Was admitted to practice law in the State of Mississippi in January, 1914. In 1918, volunteered in the world war, and served in France in Judge Advocate Department. In 1919 was first elected Mayor of the Town of Mound Bayou, and has served as Mayor ever since. He is President of the Mound Bayou Chamber of Commerce; Chairman Trustee Board Bolivar County Training School for Negroes; is a practicing Attorney.

GREETINGS

TO THE
VISITORS AND FRIENDS
TO THE

Fiftieth : Anniversary : Celebration

By MAYOR B. A. GREEN

As Mayor of the Town of Mound Bayou, and Chairman of the Citizens' Committee for the Official Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, I wish to extend to you, our visiting friends, a most cordial greeting.

Mound Bayou is, perhaps, the oldest town in the United States, which represents purely Negro self-development, and taking into full account the meagre finance, the limited knowedge of governmental affairs and the many trying handicaps which confronted the founders and pioneers, we take pardonable pride in our accomplishments during the first fifty years of our existence. The recognition which you have given us by leaving your homes, from all parts of this great country, to come to Mound Bayou, and help us celebrate on this occasion, is gratifying indeed. We shall never forget this compliment.

In presenting this Souvenir Booklet, we have tried to depict Mound Bayou from its very beginning up to now; not only in words, but pictorially as well, that you might read and see and judge for yourselves, whether we rightly attempt to celebrate. History records many towns which have been established by other races or groups, but have faded from the picture in much less than fifty years; but when the roll of Towns of 50 years of existence is called today, Mound Bayou, despite depressions, panics, highwater and fires, triumphantly answers "PRESENT."

The younger generation, which must now take up the flag where the pioneers have been forced to lay it down, solemnly pledge upon their honor, to keep forever the faith of the founders and stand firm upon the fundamental principles which guided and directed them in their attempt to found and build a community where Negroes might demonstrate their ability as builders under their own guidance and direction.

With the same determination of the founders, and by the use of modern tools and modern methods, the future growth and prosperity of Mound Bayou, and a continuance of the work of the founders are assured.

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Mrs. L. T. M. Brooks
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Henry Crow
Mrs. E. R. Clay
Mrs. M. E. Davis
S. L. Davis
W. F. Davis
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Miss Beatrice Johnson
Mrs. Gertrude Johnson
Alexander Johnson
Richard W. Jones
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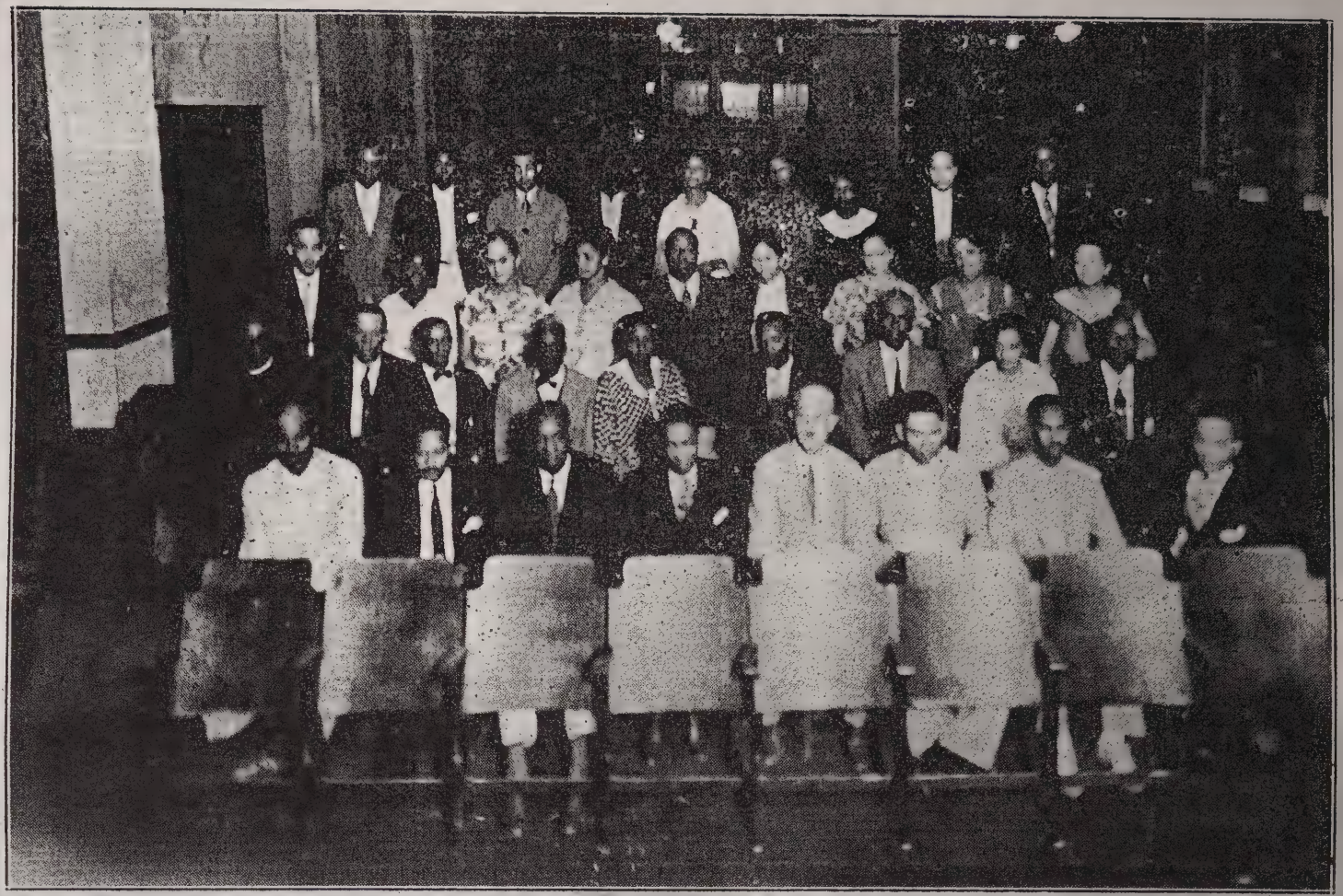

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

GREETINGS

By MRS. PRINCIE MONTGOMERY
President Renovators Society

As President of the Mound Bayou Renovators Society, I extend to you, our Fiftieth Anniversary Guest, the Greetings of Mound Bayou's Pioneer Society.

The custom of celebrating the 12th Day of July as "Founders' Day" was originated in the year 1909, by the Renovators' Society, under the leadership of Mrs. Aida Simmons.

It was our purpose to give honor and praise and due consideration to those courageous Negro men and women who undertook the difficult task of building an all-Negro town of their own. It was our further purpose to get from the lips of these same pioneer men and women, while they were still on the scene of action, a full, complete and authentic story of this great experiment in Municipal Building, for none, except those who had met the difficulties, dangers and hardships of pioneer days could tell the true story of the founding and building of Mound Bayou.

Every year since 1909, as regularly as the 12th of July has come, except, however, in 1929 when the Renovators stepped aside to permit others to sponsor "Home Coming Week" the the Renovators have met in public session to commemorate that day—FOUNDERS DAY. And today, in 1937, realizing that the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Mound Bayou, was of such importance that the citizens as a whole should sponsor same, the Renovators again relinquish their right as sole sponsors and join hands with the civic, religious, business and professional organizations of Mound Bayou, to the end that all organizations and citizens might share equally the responsibility and honor of the occasion. We wish you could hear for yourselves the pathetic, though inspiring story, as only the pioneers can ever tell, but only a few of them are left. Most of the original Renovators have long since passed away, but the children and grand children of the Pioneers and Renovators are still here, and they will see to it that Founders Day is commemorated as long as Mound Bayou shall stand

The Renovators greet you with welcome, and welcome you as our Guest.

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Sunday, July 11, 1937

BOLIVAR COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

3:00 P. M.

PROGRAM

Processional

Chorus

Scripture ..... Rev. Edward Threadgill

Invocation ..... Rev. S. P. Felder

Song ..... Congregation

Presentation of Dr. H. H. Humes ..... Rev. A. A. Thompson

Memorial Sermon ..... Dr. H. H. Humes

Prayer ..... Rev. John Lee

Spiritual ..... Congregation

Pilgrimage to Graves of Founders and Early Settlers

Eulogy to Founders and Early Settlers ..... B. A. Green

Placing of Wreaths on Graves of Founders and Early Settlers by Children and Grandchildren of Founders and Early Settlers.

Spiritual

Prayer ..... Rev. G. H. Mitchell

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HISTORY OF MOUND BAYOU, MISS.

Early Scene Showing Settlers in Woods

Founding of The Colony

When the L. N. O. & T. Railroad (now the Y. & M. V.) completed its lines from Memphis, Tennessee, to New Orleans, Louisiana, the officials of the company immediately began to seek settlers to populate and exploit the wilderness, unbroken except for a few scattered towns, along its right-of-way. A portion of this consisted of one million acres of land in the alluvial rich delta section of Mississippi extending along the Mississippi River practically from Memphis on the north to Vicksburg on the south. In the plan adopted, special emphasis was directed towards the Negro to induce him to enter the delta as it was generally supposed at that time that the climate and miasmatic conditions prevailing would continually jeopardize the life and health of other races. On the other hand, the Negro was held to hold some peculiar natural adaptation to life in this semi-tropical country and to enjoy, to some extent, immunity from the unhealthful conditions.

In following this plan, Major George W. McInnis of the land department of the L. N. O. & T. Railroad, approached Jim Hill, Negro Republican leader of Vicksburg, Mississippi, who in turn recommended to him, Isaiah T. Montgomery, then of Vicksburg, as a man of sufficient influence to induce a large number of his people to take advantage of the opportunity for home building in this section of the state. Overtures were made to Mr. Montgomery. He made a critical analysis of the situation, saw the possibilities therein, and started at once to make surveys for land suitable for this undertaking. On July 12, 1887, he selected a spot in Bolivar County, Mississippi, about mid-way between Memphis and Vicksburg on the L. N. O. & T. Railroad as a satisfactory location and returned to Vicksburg to convince his friends and ecquaintances of the wisdom of founding an all-Negro colony free from the restraints and prejudices of the civilization they had known.

Upon his return to Vicksburg, Montgomery immediately engaged his young cousin, Benjamin T. Green, who was a prospering merchant at Newton, Mississippi, to assist him in the development of this venture. Green agreed, and together with Mrs. M. R. Montgomery, wife of Isaiah T. Montgomery, purchased 840 acres of land in the new colony. Before the end of the year 700 acres more had been purchased in smaller tracts and a score or more men were busy clearing the land and building cabins for their families, who were to follow in the spring of 1888.

The early pioneers faced many hardships. On either side of the railroad right-of-way was an impenetrable jungle of cane, giant cypress, and water oaks. Their companions were forest bears, panthers, deer, wolves, wildcats, and racoons. The hoot of the owl drifting on the nocturnal air above the drone of countless insects and the croaking of frogs made the nights forbidding. All comforts of home life were lacking. One of the early settlers gives the following account of life in the early days:*

"I came to Mound Bayou in 1887 and purchased from the L. N. O. & T. Railroad Company forty acres of land on the terms fixed by them for such purchases. (Usually seven dollars per acre, one dollar per acre down, the balance in five equal annual payments). In 1888, I cut timber from this land and built a log house on it and into this house I moved my family whom I had brought up from Vicksburg in February of the same year. When I started to Mound Bayou I had one hundred and seventy-five dollars ($175) in total cash assets. Out of this amount I paid my transportation. I also paid the initial or entrance fee on my forty acres of land, and after the purchase of provisions and other items of pressing necessity, I had left only ten dollars. I bethought myself now as to the best steps to be taken when this little surplus of resources should be gone. I proceeded to clear off a small plot of ground and planted a garden. About this time I was employed by Messrs. Montgomery and Green to clear up the land, about five acres where the town site is, at four dollars per acre. I do not need to

CONTINUATON

HISTORY OF MOUND BAYOU, MISS.

(Continued From Page 16)

EARLY SETTLERS—Left to right, top row, J. G. Huddleston, Maggie Bradley, R. D. Lowe, Wm. H. Granger, Anna Harris: Center row, Michael Lewis, Ada Simmons, E. L. Dickson, Johnson Turner; bottom row, Priscilla McCarty, Henry Croe, J. F. Brooks, L. T. M. Brooks and George Johnson.

say that I appreciated this opportunity to earn a few very urgently needed dollars. I set my wife and children about this employment while I, myself, went into the woods and engaged in getting out stave boards at six dollars per cord, as there was at this time no land open that we colud work. In the fall of the same year, most of the women and children of the neighborhood went to Shelby and picked cotton at fifty cents per hundred. I succeeded this year in clearing up and planting in corn about one-fourth of an acre. The following year, I planted cane and made some molasses, and also planted some rice.

"In 1889 I took my children and went about thirteen miles west of Mound Bayou and picked cotton for Messrs. Blanchard Bros., white planters, at seventy-five cents per hundred. Following this work I was able to earn from forty to fifty dollars per week and this enabled me to keep the "wolf" from my door, and in the meantime to pay for the forty acres of land I had bought.

*A. P. Hood, "The Negro at Mound Bayou" 1909 Page 104.

"The general outlook from here at this time, however, was somewhat less than altogether encouraging. A prominent white planter in conversation with me one day when we had casually chanced to meet, remarked: "Uncle, I can't see what Montgomery and Green brought you all up here for unless they brought you up here to starve." I replied, "Mr. Blank, our forefathers wrought in the opening up of the United States for settlement and occupation, and with a far greater measure of obvious personal interest we are determined to work out the development of Mound Bayou."

"I 'rolled' logs at night and burned them and made staves in the day for my own support and that of my family. When the cotton chopping season came, my wife and children would go and chop cotton for people round about within reasonable distances from home, thus materially adding to the support fund.

"In 1890 I contracted with Mr. J. C. Lauderdale, (white) to cultivate for him four acres of land on the share system, which means that he was to furnish the land, the team, team feed, tools and seed, while I was to supply the labor and to tend and harvest the crop which was to be divided equally between us. There were no gins here at this time and the cotton had to be shipped to Memphis, Tennessee, for ginning. I have Mr. Lauderdale's word, however, for the remarkable yield of these four acres—seven full weight bales of cotton.

"There can be no greater mistake than to get the notion in this every day life that we cannot get along without this thing and the other thing. For many times we had only bread to eat and water to drink. Grease for use in the praparation of our scanty meals, at times we did not have except for a little lard and meat, well, it was a rarity, and we often made along without it sometimes for two and three months in succession.

"On one occasion I was out with some other gentlemen, John Montgomery, Morgan Thurston, and Alex Wilbert in search of a hog which I owned and which was missing, when we were brought face to face with a large she-bear and two small cubs. We dispatched the mother bear after a stubborn resistance and then easily succeeded in making captives of the cubs. By many people bear's flesh is regarded as a delicacy, even when other meats are obtainable, so in our circumstances it may be easily imagined that the capture of the animals was a most gratifying contribution to our larders."

The needs of these early settlers were few, but they had to be supplied. M. R. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green, therefore, entered into a general partership, and under the firm name of Montgomery and Green established a small mercantile business which served the needs of the community. This was the beginning of the commercial life of the town. Later

(Continued on Page 22)

Founders and Early Settlers Between 1887-1890

Marcus Anderson
Beverly Arrington
Frank Anderson
Peter Austin
Annie Austin
Shelton Allen
Thompson Black
Theodore Black, Jr.
Classie Black
L. T. M. Brooks
J. Foster Brook
J. B. Brooks
Alice Brooks
Henry Blake
Hillard Bynum
Bill Brown
Ed Christmas
Dock Collins
B. H. Creswell
Ida Creswell
H. H. Crow
Emanuel Dorsey
Emma Dorsey
E. L. Dickson
J. W. Francis
Eva P. Green Francis
Warren Fisher
Mary Elizabeth Fisher
B. T. Green
Simon Gaitor
Aimy Gaitor
W. L. Grady

Wm. H. Granger
Virginia Granger
Horace Gosby
Peter Harris
Wm. Harris
Anna Harris
A. L. Hays
Caroline Hays
Prince Hutchinson
Lutitia Hutchinson
J. Green Huddleston
Benjamin Henderson
Alfred Johnson
George Johnson
Louise Johnson
West Johnson
Emma Johnson
T. C. Jordan
Alice Jordan
R. D. Lowe
Crussana Lowe
G. A. Lee
Mollie Wilson Lee
Wm. Lewis, Sr.
Susan Lewis
I. T. Montgomery
Martha R. Montgomery
R. M. McCarty
Priscilla McCarty
Peter Montgomery
Rebecca Montgomery
Virginia Montgomery

John Montgomery
J. P. T. Montgomery
Hannah Montgomery
Nancy Marr
John Payne
Margarette Payne
Joe Moore
Jake Parker
Calvin Ramsay
Sallie Ramsay
A. R. Rowell
Hal Richardson
George Rush
Mollie Rush
Perry Strong, Sr.
Mary E. Strong
Mack Slate
Mary Slate
Nelson Travis
Johnson Turner
Sylvia Turner
Sam Thompson
Sallie Thompson
Dan Thompson
Alex Wilbert
Morgan Thurston
Delia Wilbert
Leonard Wilbert
A. L. Webster
Mike Winston
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SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI

CONTINUATION

HISTORY OF MOUND BAYOU MISS.

(Continued from page 17)

AN EARLY SETTLER'S HOME

this firm purchased a saw-mill outfit consisting of engine, saw, carriage, etc., and with it furnished the lumber from which most of the early homes were built. The lumber industry played a very important part in the early development of the colony. Abounding in oak, ash, gum and cypress, the early settlers, as they cleared their land, cut this timber into staves, headings and crossties. This was a source of revenue, and in many instances, the money derived from the sale of this timber went towards paying the initial cost of the price of the land. As the lands were cleared, agriculture came into its own and cotton soon became "king". The firm of Montgomery and Green then erected the first cotton gin in the colony.

The colony prospered, Montgomery and Green then began to organize the pioneers into a home-owning community. A portion of their original 840 acres tract was surveyed as the town site in 1889, divided into town lots and sold to the settlers on long terms. New settlers continued to come in and secured farm land from the railroad company. The community continued to grow and in 1898 the citizens petitioned to have it incorporated as a village, having a mayor, and aldermanic board of three members, marshall and treasurer. Isaiah T. Montgomery was elected as the first mayor. George A. Lee, James M. Marr, and John W. Francis were elected aldermen; William Lawson Grady, Marshall, and Alexander Meyers, Treasurer.

Period of Development

Shortly after the turn of the century there came to Mound Boyou a man who had much to do with the continued growth and development of the village, Charles Banks, a successful merchant of Clarksdale, Mississippi. He cast his lot with the villagers in 1903. In January of the following year he organized the Bank of Mound Bayou, having a capital stock of $10,000. Banks held the position of cashier. Prior to his coming to Mound Bayou, Banks had interested himself in the work of the National Business League, from the time of its organization by Dr. Booker T. Washington. In carrying out the work of the national organization, Banks organized the Mississippi State Negro Business League and was elected its president. Under his leadership, the Mississippi State Negro Business League promoted and organized the Mou Bayou Oil Mill and Manufacturing Company capi ized at $100,000. In 1907 under his guidance, this cc pany successfully constructed a modern and comp oil mill. During this period of industrial activitiy town had a period of active development. To meet demand for town property, Banks opened up a sul vision which bears his name.

First couple to be married at Mound Bayou, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Lee. (A reproduction from an original painting)

In the meantime Banks had entered int business partnership with John W. Francis. Fra had come to Mound Bayou in 1888 and was emplc as a clerk in the mercantile firm of Montgomery Green. After the death of Mr. Green and the diss tion of the firm, Montgomery and Green, Francis

(Continued on Page 23)

CONTINUATION

HISTORY OF MOUND BAYOU MISS.

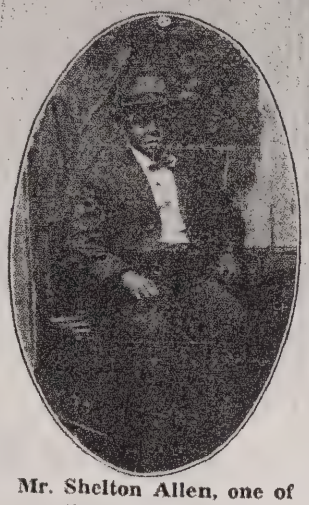
(Continued from Page 22)

FIRST COURT SCENE, MOUND, BAYOU, MISS.

erated the mercantile establishment in the interest of the Green Estate. Later he entered into business on his own account, operating the first undertaking establishment in the community and serving as president of the Bank of Mound Bayou. The firm of Banks and Francis later dealt in lumber and building supplies; annexed the Banks and Francis addition to the town of Mound Bayou; engaged in the operation of a mercantile establishment; and dealt in city and farm realty. Aside from the material development of the town, Banks and Francis, probably more than other men, were responsible for the development of civic pride and consiousness of the part of the citizens in the first two decades of the century.

A. J. Taylor of Vicksburg, Mississippi, came to Mound Bayou in 1905 in the capacity of cotton buyer for the firm of George P. Reeves and Co., of Vicksburg, Mississippi. His significant contributions to the growth and development of Mound Bayou was that he was the first cotton buyer in this section who offered fair prices for cotton in keeping with its premium staple grade. Until the time of his arrival, the planters and growers in the community had to ship their cotton to Memphis, Tennessee, for sale, and had to accept the price the buyer there offered. Taylor, however, offered his figure on the basis of the grade and staple of the cotton, assumed shipping costs, and paid for cotton as soon as the sale was made. His reputation as a cotton buyer spread all over the surrounding territory, and because of the figures quoted by him, Mound Bayou had the reputation of being the highest cotton Market in the world. His coming to Mound Bayou resulted in increased returns amounting to thousandss of dollars to the growers of the staple in the community.

Among the other men who contributed substantially to the growth and development of Mound Bayou during this period are R. B. Davis, owner and operator of the first bolting plant in Mound Bayou. He was a property owner and great civic worker. Eugene Powell, the father of C. M. Powell; J. Andy Powell, who were at one time trustees of the Bolivar County Training School and a large property owner; Tom and Albert Sawnagen; John Tharp, Sr.; Bud Styles; Dudley Harvey; Orange Christmas; Jim Jones, Sterling



Mr. Shelton Allen, one of the early settlers

First Child Born in Mound Bayou, Mayor B. A. Green at Age 5.

Simmons, Eugene Wilson, and John Wood.

The contributions of these men ushered in a period of prosperity unparalleled in the history of Mound Bayou. The village grew. Additional sub-divisions were annexed, and in 1912, upon petition of the villagers, Governor Earl Brewer of Mississippi raised the status of the village to that of a town having the elective offices of Mayor, a board of five aldermen, marshall, and treasurer. All elective offices in the town are now, and have been, filled by Negroes.

The patriotism of the Negro at Mound Bayou has never been questioned. During the World War they answered the call of the colors, no less than fifty enlisting in the Army. Charles Banks and Rev. S. P. Felder were among the "Four Minute Men". The civilian population subscribed heavily for Liberty Bonds and War Saving Stamps and bent their backs in toil supplying the sinews of war. Happily, all the men return-

(Continued on Page 26)

ROSCOE CONKLING SIMMONS
Greatest Thinker and Speaker of His Day
"A Seer, If Ever We Had One"

FOUNDERS' DAY

MONDAY, JULY 12, 1937

BOLIVAR COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

3:00 P. M.

Song

Scripture ..... Rev. W. A. Nolley

Prayer ..... Rev. U. S. Dixon

Spiritual ..... Congregation

Address: "The Part Played by the Renovators Society in the Celebration of Founders' Day ..... Mrs. Princie Montgomery, President, Renovators Society

Solo ..... Miss Charline Ford

Presentation of Hon. Roscoe Conklin Simmons ..... Hon. John A. Green

Address ..... Hon. Roscoe Conklin Simmons

Spiritual ..... Mound Bayou Jubilee Singers

Benediction ..... Rev. W. M. Lee

B. A. GREEN, MASTER OF CEREMONIES

THE MODERN STORES, INC.

JOE BROTHERS, INC.

CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI

—also—

J. H. LETT & COMPANY

GROCERIES and MEATS

BOYLE, MISSISSIPPI

Dickerson's Service Station

Gas — Oil — Tires and Accessories

Cold Drinks — Beer and Sandwiches

"SERVICE IS OUR FIRST THOUGHT"

L. W. Dickerson, Proprietor

302-4th St., —Texaco Products

Phone 600—Clarksdale, Mississippi

SHOP AT POWERS IN CLARKSDALE——

——For Quality Merchandise At Reasonable Prices

COMPLETE ARRAY OF SUMMER READY-TO-WEAR . . .

Shoes, Accessories, Millinery, Piece Goods . . . In Fact

Everything Your Family Will Need ! . . . . .

Powers and Company

DRINK HIRES ROOT BEER——

——The Only Root Beer Absolutely Pure——

DOUBLE COLA —The King of Colas

DR. PEPPER, 10, 2 & 4

Koelling Bottling Co. - - Clarksdale, Miss.

CONTINUATON

HISTORY OF MOUND BAYOU, MISS.

(Continued from page 23)

Top Row: left to right, J. P. T. Montgomery, first Attorney for Mound Bayou; J. W. Francis, one of the first Aldermen; George A. Lee, one of the first Aldermen: Botton row, left to right, William Lawson Grady, first Marshall; R. A. Fourshea, first Deputy Sheriff, and Alexander Meyers, first Treasurer.

ed without a casulty although several were critically wounded.

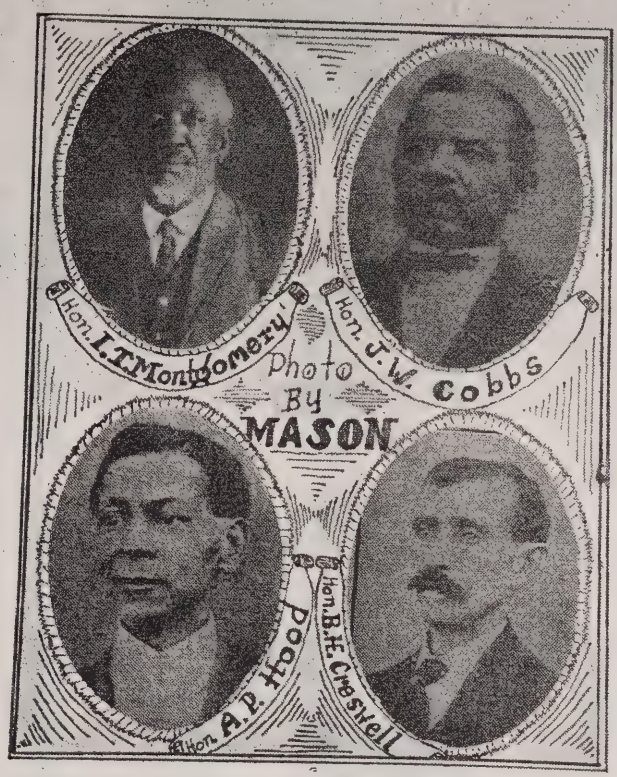
Jones, Hiram Dillon, W. F. Davis, Henry Hall, A. G.

The Present Period

The Present period of the development of Mound Bayou dates from 1920. Unfortunately, this period is not as happy as the preceeding ones. At the beginning of this period, cotton, the life blood of Mound Bayou, was selling up to sixty-five cents per pound. This cotton had been produced at a cost of not less than forty-five cents per pound. The crops were good and the planters and growers were expectitng to reap a golden harvest in the fall. On the contrary, the price of cotton broke during the post-war depression and thousands of bales were sacrificed at a figure far below the cost of production. This meant financial ruin for thousands of planters and growers of the staple and those engaged in cotton production here had to stand their losses along with the others. Added to this calamity, a series of disasterous fires all but completely destroped the business houses of the municipality.

In spite of these handicaps, however, the town continued to develop. At the beginning of the period, B. A. Green, lawyer, Harvard graduate, and native son, was elected Mayor, a position he has since held for eight consecutive terms. During his administration, concrete sidewalks were laid; the old jail demolished, as there was no need for it; street lights were extended; and a modern consolidated school erected. With the approach of 1929 the town was beginning to return to its normal condition.

The great depression of 1929-33 tempororily halted the development of the town. During this period, however, and subsequently there has been a slow, but steady infusion of new blood in the community. During this period W. P. Baldwin opened up the first modern service station in the town. His business also carried a full line of groceries. Upon his death in 1935, Ed Pressley bought and continued to operate the business. K. D. Smith, a former cotton buyer of Greenwood, Mississippi, entered the grocery business here, supplementing his cotton business, in the spring of 1936. He has since erected a new building and now boasts one of the most progressive firms in the town. Alexander Johndon operates a first class business,



Former Mayors of Mound Bayou

dealing in automobile supplies, gasoline and oil. He also carries a complete line of groceries. I. E. Edwards, formerly a teacher of the Bolivar County Training School, and new representative of the Afro-American Sons and Daughters of Yazoo City, Mississippi, opened during the summer of 1936 the town's first five and ten cent store.

Among the new business enterprises are the Sam William's Grocery Store, and Ruby's Cafe. operated by John Thomas, the town marshall. These businesses supplementing the older businesses of the town

(Continued on Page 32)

COMPLIMENTS
TEXACO PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
C. M. SHAW, JR.
WHOLESALE
PHONE 19
SHELBY, MISS.

New Dixie Chevrolet
CLARKSDALE. MISS.
OK USED CARS

COMPLIMENTS
Shoenholz
CLEVELAND, MISS.

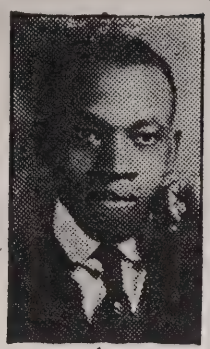
Maxwell Motor Compamy
CHRYSLERS & PLYMOUTHS
Best Buy In Delta
On Used Cars
RULEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

CHEVROLET
Weber

COMPLIMENTS
Le Flore Grocer Co.
GREENWOOD, MISS.

JOHN A. GREEN

Mr. John A. Green, son of one of the founders, B. T. Green, and Executive Secretary of the Fifth Street Branch of the Y. M. C. A., Dayton, Ohio.



R. W. JONES

HOME COMING DAY

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1937

BOLIVAR COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL AUDTORIUM

3:00 P. M.

PROGRAM

Song	
Scripture	Rev. William Lowe
Prayer	Rev. William M. President
Spiritual	Audience
Roll Call of Early Settlers	Mrs. Evalyn B. Washington, Secty., Citizens' Committee
Address	Hon. P. A. Smith, Alderman, Town of Mound Bayou
Solo	Miss Omega Hayes
Presentation of Hon. John A. Green	Master of Ceremonies
Address	Hon. John A. Green, Executive Secretary, Fifth Street Branch, Y. M. C. A., Dayton Ohio.
Song	Audience
Benediction	Rev. Robert Motley

R. W. JONES, MASTER OF CEREMONIES

A. Peterson, Pres.
Falcon, Miss.

Adell Price, Treas.
Marks, Miss.

W. W. Wells, Se
Darling, Miss.

Marks Burial Association

PHONE 222

MARKS, MISS.

UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHETIC SERVICE

WE WRITE BURIAL INSURANCE

JOIN TODAY

Jas. Betts, Director of Agencies

A. G. Reems, Sec.

STRONG SOLID DEPENDABLE

THE UNIVERSAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF TENNESSEE

PROTECTS THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Universal Life agents are aquipped to serve every need for protection. Modern policies are issued both Industrial and Ordinary plans from birth to age 54 next birthday. The Universal Life saleskit means a whole family of potential policyholders back of every door-bell.

There is a Universal Life Policy for every purse and purpose, operating in Tenn., Miss., Ark., Okla., Mo., Texas, and La.

OLD LINE LEGAL RESERVE

For Further Information write

234 Hernando Street

Dr. J. E. Walker, Pres.

Memphis, Ten

Shelby Hardware & Lumber Company

DEALERS IN

HARDWARE — LUMBER

FURNITURE — PAINTS

GENERAL ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS

FANS AND RADIOS

PHONE 141 — SHELBY, MISS.

Shelby Cash Store

— — GENERAL MERCHANDISE — —

Your Friends

SO APPETIZING WITH A SANDWICH LUNCH

• People everywhere have discovered how ice-cold Coca-Cola makes good food taste better. A drink so good by itself is the natural partner of good things to eat. Order by the case (24 bottles) from your dealer.

ICE-COLD COCA-COLA IS EVERY PLACE ELSE; IT BELONGS IN YOUR ICE-BOX AT HOME

WB—339—67

COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO.

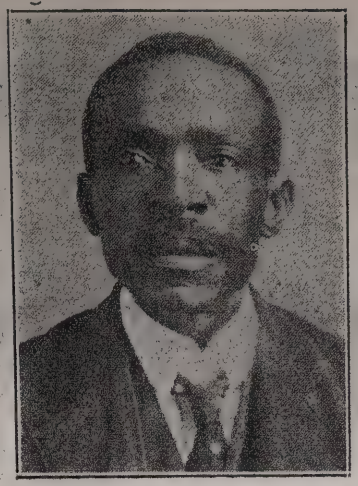
PHONE 150

CLEVELAND, — — — MISSISSIPPI

CONTINUATION

HISTORY OF MOUND BAYOU MISS.

(Continued From Page 2)



A. J. TAYLOR
First Cotton Buyer

Mr. Charles Banks, for two decades one o
Mound Bayou's outstanding leaders.

are a welcome addition and are rendering efficient service.

The newspaper fraternity has been well represented at Mound Bayou. The first successful newspaper to devote its colums almost exclusively to news of local interest was the Mound Bayou Demonstrator. The first issue of this paper was printed August 1, 1900, by the Mound Bayou Demonstrator Publishing Company organized by Wm. LaFayette Smith, Dr. Deuborn J. Alford, and Aurelius Hood, and printed by the Vicksburg Newspaper Union. One year after the date of its first issue, the Mound Bayou Demonstrator Company purchased and installed a printing plant of its own. After several changes of ownership, the property came into the hands of J. Wayland Covington, of Columbus, Mississippi, who operated it successfully for 12 years. The Demonstrator was, during its life of 20 years, successively edited by A. P. Hood, Roscoe Conklin, and J. Wayland Covington.

Among other journals published here were "The Baptist Woman's Union," a semi-monthly publication established in 1906; The "Baptist Echo", a monthly periodical established in 1909 and published in the interest of the Green Grove Baptist Church and affiliated organizations, and the "Baptist Gazette," established in 1913 and edited by Prof. R. McCorkle.

At present Mound Bayou is served by the "Southern Advocate," a weekly, organized in 1933, with B. A. Wade, Editor-in-Chief; Issac Peterson, Social Editor, and P. A. Smith, Civic Editor. The "Advocate" is kept busy doing job-work for numerous religious, fraternal, and civic organizations.

J. F. Huddleson, a native son of J. Green Huddleston, who came to Mound Bayou in 1890, is the owner of four business locations and the operator of one of the best equipped grocery stores and meat markets in the town. Recently he made some improvements in his business properties. Henry C. Bolton has also recently erected a four store building, all of which are rented, and above which is located the Casino Ballroom, Mound Bayou's amusement center.

Among the newcomers who have acquired farm property within the last few years are E. R. Weaver, 40 acres; E. H. Jones, 80 acres; Emmit Ford, 200 acres; Frank Blackburn, 80 acres; Will Bailey, 40 acres; Sidney Glass, 80 acres; Frances and Wade Bel 80 acres; Oscar J. Christmas, 120 acres; Calvin Bran don, 40 acres; George Burnley, 40 acres; C. L. Gibso 40 acres; and Grover Ballard, 40 acres. Among the old er settlers who have recently acquired farm propert are Sam Thompson, 80 acres; Caroline Keys, 40 acre D. J. Hills, 40 acres; and B. A. Green 80 acres.

Residential property has recently been ac quired or improved by the following: Henry Bolton, H. Magruder, C. V. Thurmond, Mary Slate, Sual Ish mon, Katie Ails, Issac Peterson, C. L. Gibson, P. I McCarty, Nettie Satterfield, W. D. Anderson, H. A Riddle, Princie Montgomery, and P A. Smith.

The International Order of Twelve of th Knights and Daughters of Tabor, Mississippi Jurisdi tion, have authorized the construction of a temple a cost in excess of $25,000. Likewise, the Boliva County Baptist Association has purchased land and au thorized the construction of a modern school theree at a cost in excess of $30,000. W. T. Brown, the fir licensed resident embalmer in Mound Bayou and no a successful undertaker in Chicago, Illinois, will soo erect a modern establishment here to be operated b Joseph Crossley, a local youngster and graduate Bolivar County Training School, now in Chicago pr paring to take an examination of the Illinois Sta Board of Embalming. Mr. C. M. Powell has under co struction a building that will be the new home of th local branch of the Powell and Powell Undertaki Company, of Chicago, Illinois, and Mound Bayou, Mi sissippi.

These new additions to the town and comm ni of Mound Bayou hav been mentioned only to sho the Negroes' faith in the future growth and develo ment of this, our first attempt at self-government a

Continued on Page 36)

Congratulations

—to—

Mound Bayou

ON IT'S

50th Anniversary

MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT CO.

A BASIC MISSISSIPPI INDUSTRY

LEADS IN READER-INTEREST LEADS IN INFLUENCE

The Smartest People Everywhere Read

Greenville Leader

"DEFENDER OF THE MID-SOUTH"

Levye Chapple, Publisher

400 N. Edison St. Greenville Miss.

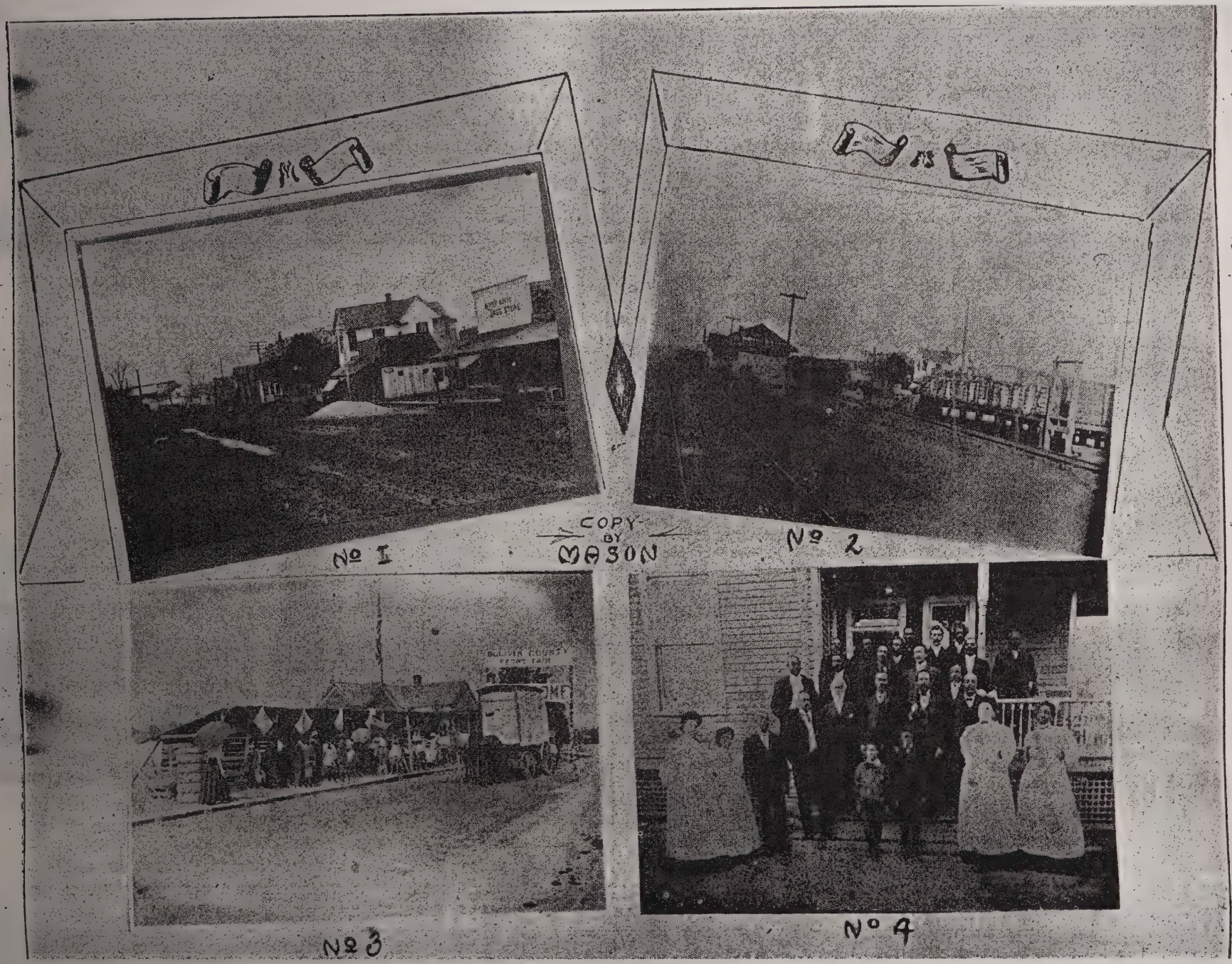
LEADS IN CIRCULATION LEADS IN ADVERTISING

Dixie Cleaners

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

KNIT GARMENTS A SPECIALTY

PHONE 77 SHELBY, MISS.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HON. J. FINLEY WILSON

F. H. MILLER

FRATERNAL DAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1937

GRAND PARADE ..... **2:00 P. M.**

PROGRAM

BOLIVAR COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

3:00 P. M.

"America"

Scripture ..... Rev. T. L. Lucas

Prayer ..... Rev. A. M. Snowden

"The Negro National Anthem"

Presentation of Hon. J. Finley Wilson ..... Master of Ceremonies

Address ..... Hon. J. Finley Wilson
Grand Exalted Ruler, I. B. P. O. E. of W.

Solo ..... Mr. Vertis Reese

Response ..... Hon. B. J. Smith
State Deputy, I. B. P. O. E. of W.

Song ..... Audience

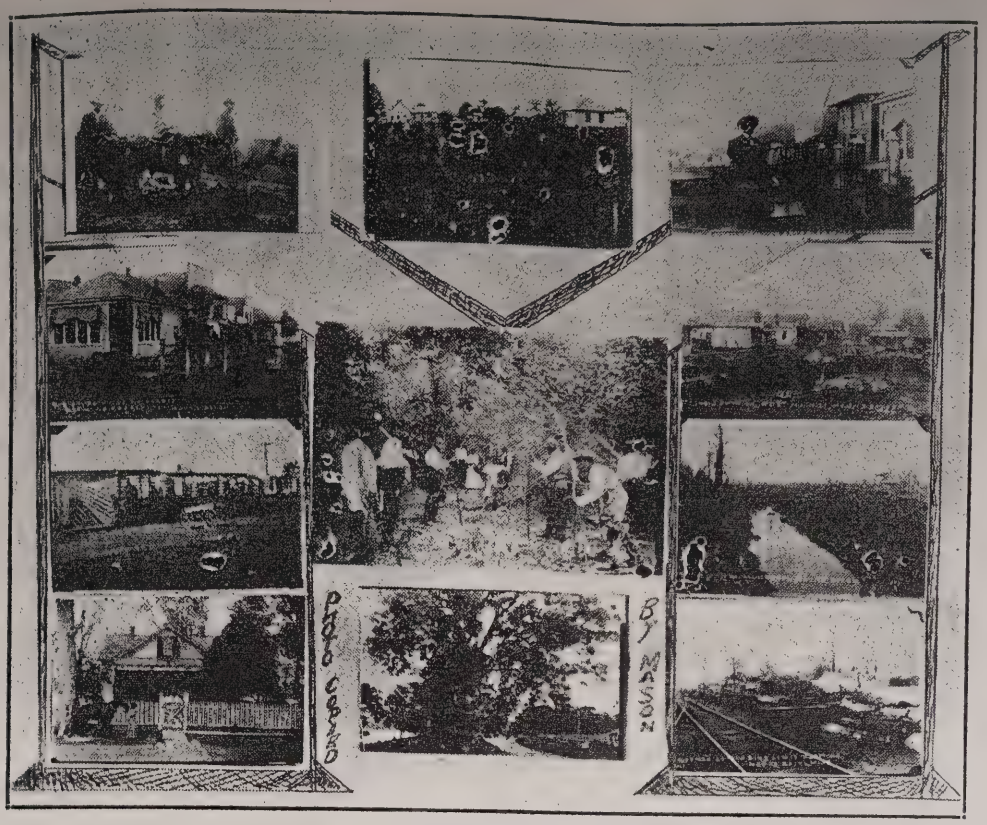
Benediction

F. H. MILLER, MASTER OF CEREMONIES

CONTINUED

History of Mound Bayou, Miss.

Continued from page 32



EARLY SCENES

self-emancipation. We realize that we have many shortcomings, but we have the faith and the courage to continue to strive towards the elusive goal of perfection.

The present officers of the Town of Mound Bayou are B. A. Green, Mayor; I. E. Edwards, Mayor Pro-Tempore and Alderman, Issac Peterson, Clerk and Alderman, Perry A. Smith, Street Commissioner and Alderman; S. L. Davis, Alderman; John Thomas, Marshall; H. C. Bolton, Treasures; John R. Young, Deputy Sheriff; C. V. Thurmond is Postmaster, assisted by C. H. Magruder.

Mound Bayou counts among its business, professional and industrial enterprises, two gins, three blacksmith shops, one garage, one tailor, two restaurants, five service stations, two contractors, two doctors, one dentist, one lawyer, one grist mill, one sawmill, two undertakers, twelve groceries and meat markets, one drug store, one five and ten cent store, one billiard parlor, one barber shop, one gun and locksmith, and one newspaper. Among the grocery stores is one operated by Mrs. L. T. M. Brooks, one of the early settlers. This store is the oldest business in Mound Bayou. Smith & Smith General Mercantile, owned and operated by Mrs. C. L. Keys, carries the largest and most complete stock of goods.

Among Mound Bayou's famous sons and daughters, past and present citizens are: Mrs. Mary C. Booze, Republican National Committeewoman from Mississippi, Hon Fred Miller, Member of Committee of Platform and Resolutions, Republican National Convention of 1936 and President of the Mississippi Association of Negro Electors, Mr. Mack Atkins, John Marr, and John Powell, successful undertaker of Chicago, Illinois, Isaiah T. Creswell, general accountant, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, Henry Shegog of Wewoka, Oklahoma, and Miss Naomi Creswell of Memphis, Tennessee, both engaged in educational work, John A. Green, Executive Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., Dayton, Ohio, Rev. S. P. Felder, retired Presiding Elder of the A. M. E. Church, Rev. A. A. Cosey, President of Natchez College, Natchez, Mississippi, and Editor of the "Advance Dispatch," Charles P. Wade, Attorney, Tulsa Oklahoma, Orville Mosley, Head of the Music Department, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Freddie Holmes, Orchestra Leader, Chicago, Illinois, Square Pates, Dewey A. Lee, Eli Green, Aaron Marr, James M. Marr, Jr., James Hopkins, Charlie Pates, and A. Levi Webster, all connected with the Post Office Department, Chicago, Illinois; E. P. Booze, Nationally known Republican leader; Mrs. F. H. Miller, Mound Bayou, Mrs. F. E. Butler, Mound Bayou; Mrs. Faustina McEvans, Shaw, Mississippi; Mrs. Alma Percy, Leland, Mississippi; Rev. John Jones, Leland, Mississippi; Dr. L. DeLaine, Greenville, Mississippi; R. W. Jones, Mound Bayou; R. G. Stringer, Mound Bayou; Mrs. Atta Mae Wallace, Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. Foinilla Mason, Clarksdale, Mississippi; F. B. Hood, Mound Bayou; Rev. Edward Threadgill, Greenville, Mississippi; Dr. Charles Walker, Battle Creek, Michigan; Miss Beulah Marr, Mrs. Ollie B. Coffin, and Mrs. Deliah Wiseman, all of Chicago; Mrs. Ophelia Johnson, New Orleans , Louisiana; Mrs. Cornelia Gordon and Mrs. E. V. Wood of Mound Bayou; and Elijah Conwell, one of the best farmers and men in the Mound Bayou Community.

Among the active organizations are the Renovators Society, the Mound Bayou Chamber of Commerce, and the Mound Bayou Foundation, Inc. Active fraternal organizations in Mound Bayou are International Order of Twelve of the Knights and

(Continued on page 47)

ROTHROCK-CARNES MOTOR CO.

USED CARS OF OUTSTANDING VALUE

Ford

GOOD TRADES
LIBERAL TERMS

SHELBY, : : MISSISSIPPI

We Build Your Shoes to Look Like New.

DELTA SHOE SHOP

J. M. Lightfoot, Proprietor

321 Delta Ave. : : CLARKSDALE, MISS.

R. T. Watson, Jr., Manager — L. C. Young, Asst. Manager

Our Motto: "DEPENDABLE SERVICE."

WATSON FUNERAL HOME

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

AMBULANCE SERVICE

PHONE 1021
304 OHEA ST.

Greenville, Miss.

MOUND BAYOU, WE GREET YOU!

You Have Set a Standard For Your Race.

Hart, Shaffner & Marx has set the Standard for Clothes.
Dobbs for Hats, Hanan for Shoes and
You will find these at

THE LEADER, JOE WEINBERG GREENVILLE, MISS.

GEO. W. LEE

DELTA DAY

THURSDAY, JULY 15th, 1937

Bolivar County Training School Auditorium

3:00 O'CLOCK P. M.

Song .....

Scripture ..... Rev. A. W. Looney

Prayer.....

Song.....Audience

Address..... Rev. James Spencer

Solo ..... Miss Cecilia Irwin

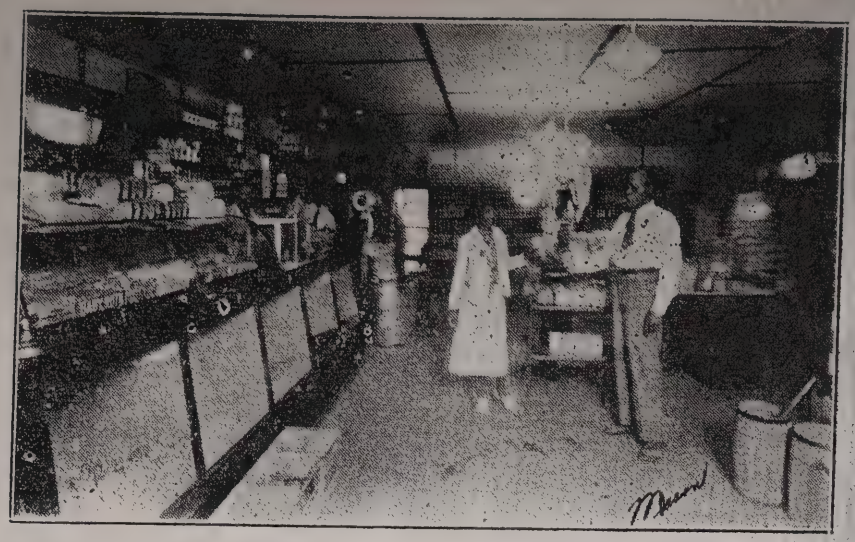
Presentation of Lieutenant Geo. W. Lee.....Hon. F. H. Miller

ADDRESS.....Lieut. Geo. W. Lee

Solo..... Miss Cecia Irwin

Benediction.....

C. H. MAGRUDER, Master of Ceremonies.



FARMERS' FRIEND CASH GROCERY
K. D. Smith, Owner

NORMAN DRUG STORE

J. F. HUDDLESTON GROCERY & MEAT MARKET

Top: Green Street, looking North.

Upper Center: Johnson's Service Station, East Main Street, looking North.

Lower Center: Farmers' Friend Service Station. Lee Building.

Bottom Row: Mound Bayou Service Station. View of Norman Drug Store and J. F. Huddleston Grocery and Meat Market.

J. E. MOORE TAILORING CO.

EXPERT TAILORS

A CARD WILL BRING US TO YOU.

325 DELTA AVE.

CLARKSDALE, : : MISS.

BROWN'S O. K. SKIN SOLUTION

FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY

For Ringworm, Eczema, Tetter and other Skin Diseases, apply night and morning with soft rag or piece of absorbent cotton.

For Callouses and Corns pour a small quantity, enough to wet sock or stocking, over and around Callous or Corn. Continue for several days, or until Callous or Corn comes off. This formula has been sold by me for 25 years and is a wonderful relief for what it is recommended for.

PRICE 25c, 50c $1.00 L. C. BROWN, Druggist

Bus. Phone 28, Res. Phone 28 ROSEDALE, MISS.

—Compliments of—

FOSTER MOTOR CO.

STUDEBAKER

GREENVILLE, -:- MISS.

COMPLIMENTS OF

The Denton Mfg. Co.

DENTON QUALITY

SHELBY CLEVELAND

ICE CREAM

DAIRY PRODUCTS

PUBLIC GINNING

We Appreciate Your Use of Our Products.

—Compliments of

DELTA BUICK CO.

BUICKS PONTIACS

CLARKSDALE

BLUE : FRONT : TAVERN

Cleveland, Miss.

EATS AND DRINKS

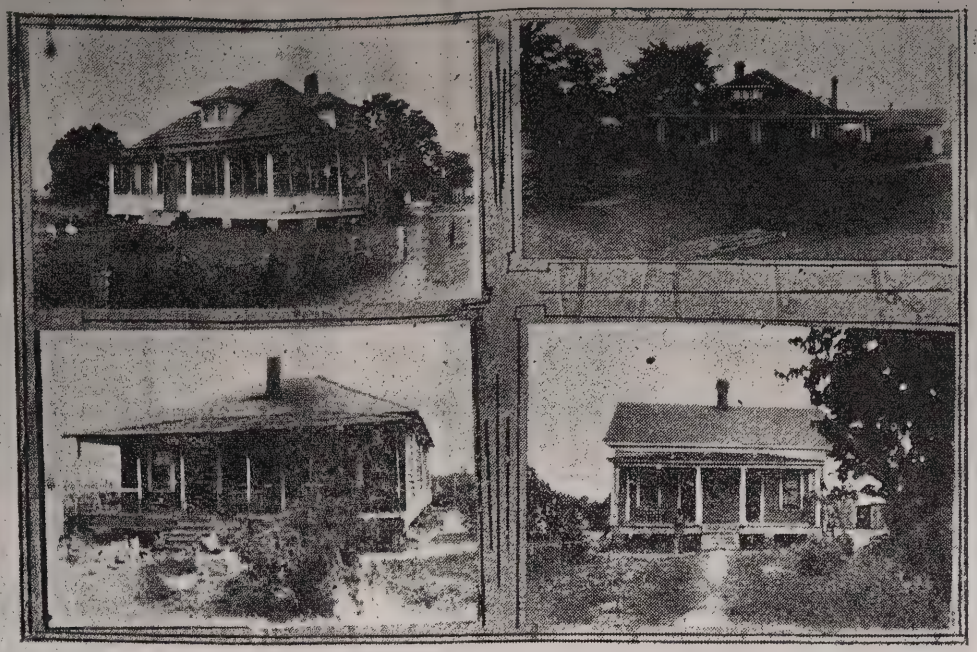
ASK FOR WHAT YOU WANT

SCHANKERMAN'S

...Exclusive Store...

FOR MEN AND BOYS

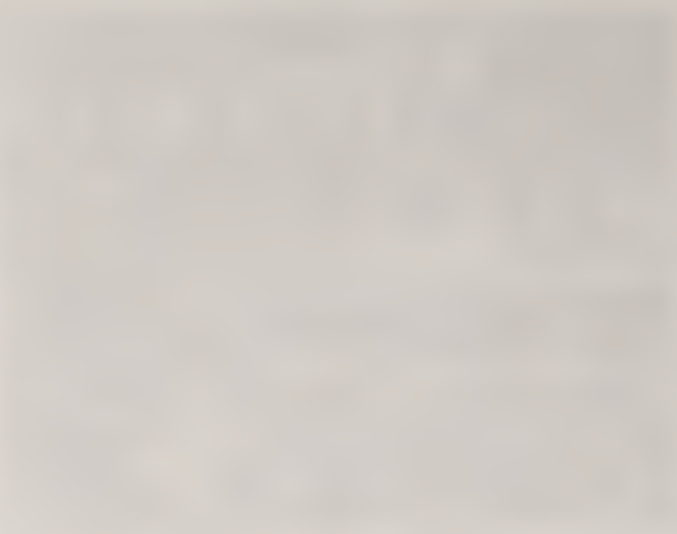
260 Delta Avenue -:- CLARKSDALE, MISS.



Top Row: Homes of C. M. Powell and P. R. McCarty.
Bottom Row: Elijah Conwell and Sidney Glass

SMITH & SMITH STORE
Mrs. C. L. Keys, Prop.

Home of DR. P. MOISE GEORGE, Resident Physician



—Compliments of—

J. D. LANHAM

Plumbing, Heating, Electrical Fixtures

GREENWOOD, -:- MISS.

Delta Funeral Corporation

ROSEDALE, :- MISS.

—COMPLIMENTS OF—

FOUNTAIN'S

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

GO TO *MURPHY'S* *FIVE, TEN & 25c Store*

ROSEDALE, MISSISSIPPI

TRADE AT

WONG & CO.

ROSEDALE, MISS.

Davis : Drug : Store

Our Slogan: "Quality and Satisfaction to All"

MERIGOLD, MISS.

Compliments of

FRANK E. JONES

GENERAL INSURANCE

Merigold, Miss.

Cleveland Service Station

SINCLAIR PRODUCTS

Cleveland, Miss.

Rowe Drug Co.

COLORED DRUG STORE

PRESCRIPTIONS

Shelby, : : Mississippi

SAM E. DUNN, JR.

ZENITH

WINCHARGER RADIOS

Let the Wind Light Your House and Run YOUR RADIO

ON COTTON ROW

Cleveland, : : Mississippi

C. W. Capps & Company

Cotton Buyers

PHONE 48

CLEVELAND, ::: MISS.

Kaplan's Men's Shop

EVERYTHING FOR MEN AND BOYS

CLEVELAND, -:- MISS.

HYMAN'S 5 & 10c STORE

SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI

INDIANOLA
Furniture Company

EVERYTHING FOR THE HOME
Funeral Directors Burial Policies
INDIANOLA, MISS.

COMPLIMENTS OF

WOLFF'S
Department Store

INDIANOLA, MISS.

YOUR PATRONAGE SOLICITED

Shelby Service Station

WHITE ROSE GASOLINE
ENARCO MOTOR OIL

Goodyear Tires and Tubes
All Auto Accessories

PHONE 171
SHELBY, -:- MISS.

BARBATI Shoe Shop

SHOE REPAIRS

WE DYE OR SHINE
All Kinds of Shoes

Cleveland, : : Mississippi

Compliments of

The Mississippi Colored

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

AND

EMBALMERS

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"FARMERS' FRIENDS"

TOOLS, IMPLEMENTS

Hardware of All Kinds

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MOLINE IMPLEMENTS
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BORNMAN LUMBER COMPANY

Clarksdale, Mississippi

BUILDING MATERIAL FOR EVERY PURPOSE
JOHNS-MANVILLE PRODUCTS
Sherwin-Williams Paints & Varnishes
Phones 318 & 319

Compliments of

1200 TIRE CO.

CLARKSDALE, MISS.

FORTUNE
FRIENDLY
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G. M. C. TRUCKS

You Get
A BETTER
USED CAR
From a
Buick Dealer

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—AND—
McDAVID CO.
Telephones 56 & 57
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CHEVROLET

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Dealer in Staple & Fancy Groceries, Kansas City Meats
School Supplies, Fruits and Produce.

ALL KINDS OF COLD DRINKS. BEER AND WINE A SPECIALTY

Our Motto: "Best Goods for the Least Money"

This Store Extends a Hearty Welcome to the Visitors
to Our FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

PHONE 60 Mound Bayou, Mississippi

FARMERS' FRIEND GASH GROCERY

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FIRST CLASS GROCERIES. BEER AND WINE

STANDARD OIL PRODUCTS

WE SPECIALIZE IN BUYING COTTON.

Our Motto: "Courtesy & Satisfaction to All"

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Mound Bayou, Mississippi

ED J. THREADGILL

Pastor of Mount Horeb Baptist Church

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USE SEEBURGS

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Call or Write

TOMMIE GRIFFIN

416 Muscadine St.

Phone 1781

GREENVILLE, MISS.

CONTINUATION

HISTORY OF MOUND BAYOU, MISS.

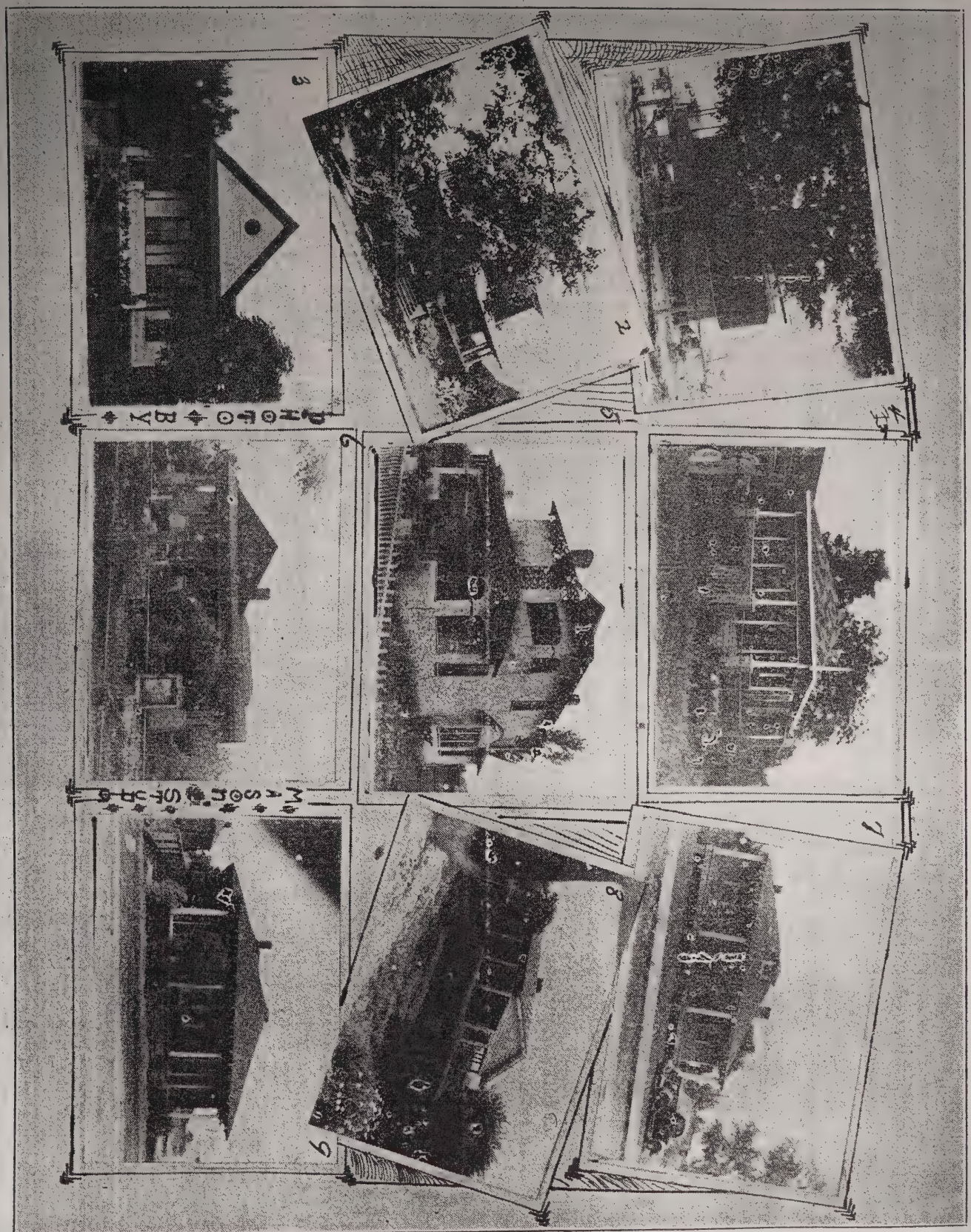
Continued from Page 36

Daughters of Tabor, Afro-American Sons and Daughters, the Improved Benovolent Protective Order of Elks of the World, and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

The real significance of Mound Bayou, however, cannot be measured by the number of acres of land we own, neither by the size and number of businesses we operate, the strength of our financial institutions, nor by the eminence of our native sons and daughters. But the true significance of Mound Bayou lies in the fact that we are able to demonstrate to the world that the Negro can and does live as a law abiding citizen under the authority of the "bone of his bone and the flesh of his flesh." Our municipal government is stable. Its wisdom is attested by the fact that many needed improvements have been foregone to prevent its citizens from being burdened with debts. The outstanding obligations of the municipality are less than $12,000. We have no jail because we don't need one. In the entire community dwell 8,000 Negroes and we have not had a capital crime in thirteen years. Petty crimes are infrequent.

The citizens of Mound Bayou dwell in security. They are the heirs of freedom and feel that they are a part of a great nation. They contribute to its well-being by their toil, their hopes, their aspirations, and will forever look with disdain on acts of tyranny.

As for the future, we have faith. Materially, we rise and fall with the favor of "King Cotton." We feel, however, that we have something vastly more important than material gain to offer to the Negroes of America, and that is freedom from petty prejudices and insults and an opportunity for the dark skinned citizens of America to develop without restraints imposed because of race, into the highest type of manhood and womanhood. On this principle we stake our future, and on this principle we invite the Negroes of America to join us.



A GROUP OF CITY HOMES

Daughters of Isaiah T. Montgomery
Miss Stella Montgomery, Miss Lillie Belle Montgomery, and Mrs. Eva P. Canton.

Mound Bayou's Future Citizens
Children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Crow on extreme ends; center, child of Prof. and Mrs. A. R. Taylor

Mrs. E. P. Green Francis,
widow of Founder Benjamin T. Green

Mrs. Louise Warren,
daughter of Benjamin T. Green, one of the founders of Mound Bayou.

Mrs. B. H. Creswell,
widow of a former mayor.

Future Citizens of Mound Bayou
Triplets, Queen Ellener, King Elbert and Queen Ester, children of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Craig.

Mrs. M. G. Miller,
daughter of Benjamin T. Green, one of the Founders of Mound Bayou.

SCHOOL HISTORY OF of MOUND BAYOU

Early Mound Bayou Schools

Top, Mound Bayou Normal and Industrial Institute, center, Mound Bayou Public School, botton, The Mound Bayou Industrial College.

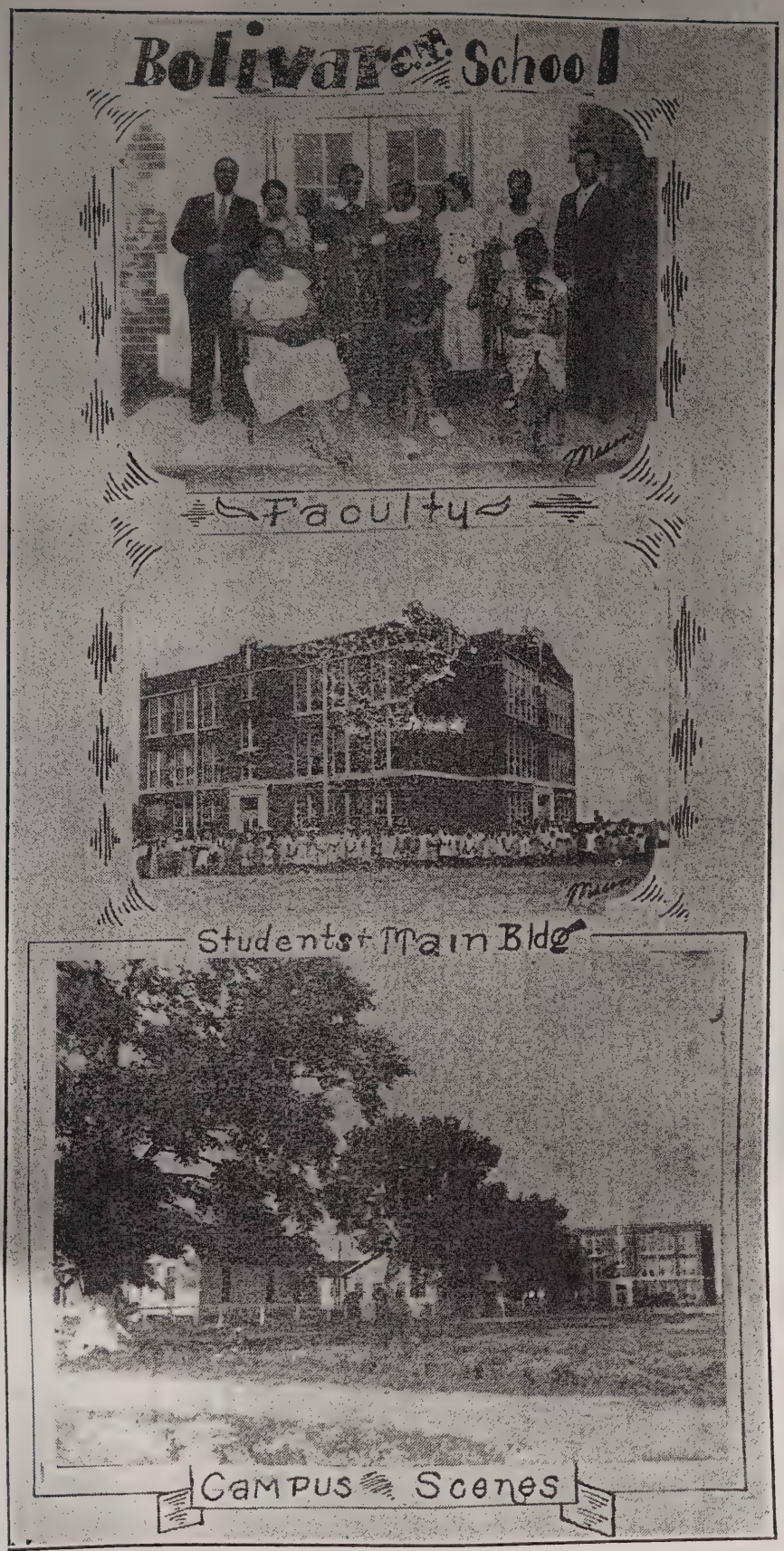
The founders and early settlers recognized the value of education in the development of a community. Therefore, shortly after the early settlers entered the Mound Bayou Colony they had a public school established. Miss M. Virginia Montgomery, a sister of Isaiah T. Montgomery was elected its first principal. Miss Montgomery was principal of the school until 1896, when she resigned to accept other duties in the colony. She was succeeded by Rev. J. L. Brandford. During this period the school was taught in the Green Grove Paptist Church. Later, under the joint-principalship of Prof. James Wilson and Prof. R. J. Jarrett, a portion of the school continued to be held in the Green Grove Baptist Church and the other, under Prof. Wilson, was conducted at the A. M. E. Church. These men were succeeded as principals by Mrs. Getrude Jones-Bryant in 1904, a position she retained until 1915. The public school carried an enrollment of approximately two hundred and ordinarily employed two assistants.

Very soon after the establishment of the public school, however, the founders realized that that educational institution had to be supplemented. Hence, M. R. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green donated a track of land for educational purposes and the Mound Bayou Normal and Industrial Institute was established in 1892. This school was under the immediate control of a local board of trustees. It received its revenue largely from tuitions, but was supplemented to some extent, financially, by the American Missionary Society. Miss Annie Randolph of New England was its first principal. She was succeeded by Miss Mary E. Crump, of Memphis. Later Miss Minnie S. Washington-Jordan, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, headed the school.

Through the efforts of Mrs. A. A. Harris, the Women Workers of Mississippi by the orders of the General Baptist State Convention established the Mound Bayou Industrial College in 1900. It received its revenues through tuitions and the rest of the funds necessary to maintain the school were raised by The Women Workers. This school was under the immediate supervision of a local board of trustees who were responsible to the Women Workers Convention. Among the persons responsible for the early success of the school are Mrs. A. A. Harris, Mrs. L. V. Alexander, president; Mrs. M. C. Collier, president of the Board of Trustees; Mrs. M. D. Crawford. trustee; Prof. John Capshaw, its first principal; anl Prof. R. C. McCorkel and Prof. P. M. Smith, later principals. After filling a vital need in the community for a period of thirty-six years, upon the recommendation of Prof. A. A. Thompson, its last principal, it was discontinued in 1936.

The Mound Bayou Normal and Industrial Institute continued to grow. Under the able principalship of Prof. B. F. Ousley, who was easily recognized as one of the most thoroughly prepared educators of the state, a complete high school course was added, supplemented by vocational instruction in domestic arts and science, and music. After serving the school as principle for a period of sixteen years. Prof. Ousley resigned and was succeeded by Prof. F. M. Roberts, a graduate of Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Prof. Roberts was assisted among others by Prof. Robert Ross, a former student of the school and a graduate of Hampton Institute, who succeeded him upon his resignation.

(Continued on page 51)



FACULTY AND VIEWS OF THE BOLIVAR COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL

Continuation of History Mound Bayou Schools

(Continued from page 50)

These three educational institutions co-existed until 1920, when in the interest of efficiency and economy the Mound Bayou Public School and the Mound Bayou Normal and Industrial Institute consolidated to form the Mound Bayou Consolidated School District administered by a local board of trustees appointed by the County Superintendent of Education. The Board of Trustees of the District floated bonds in the amount of $115,000 to erect the Bolivar County Training School. The Bolivar County Training School is housed in a three story brick building located in the Town of Mound Bayou and serving an area of thirty square miles. It has sixteen classrooms, an auditorium with seating capacity of 700, and an annual enrollment of 850.

The first Trustees of the Bolivar County Training School were Isaiah T. Montgomery, Chairman, B. W. Byram and John W. Francis. The present Trustees are B A. Green, Chairman; D. J. Hills, T. S. Morris, John Tharp, and P. M. Smith.

Prof. J. M. Mosley was the first principal of the Bolivar County Training School. He was succeeded in 1926 by Prof. John H. Powell. Both of these men are graduates of Alcorn A. & M. College, Alcorn, Mississippi. The present principal is A. R. Taylor, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute. He succeeded Prof. Powell in 1934. At present the school has a faculty of twelve. Other than offering the conventional high school curriculum, courses in vocational agriculture, industrial arts, and commercial subjects are taught. A wide and varied program of extra-curricular activities are enjoyed by the students.

The Opportunity Center Kindergarten was founded by Miss Ottowiess Felder, October 19, 1932. It is a private school receiving its revenues from tuition. Special appeal is made to the child of preschool age. However, special students desiring instruction up to and including the eighth grade are enrolled.

The Opportunity Center has taken its place among the foremost educational institutions of the Town of Mound Bayou, and is rapidly gaining recognition throughout Bolivar County, as each year a creditable number of little folks are enrolled from the neighboring towns.

Compliments of

BOLIVAR COUNTY

Largest Staple Cotton Growing County In The United States.

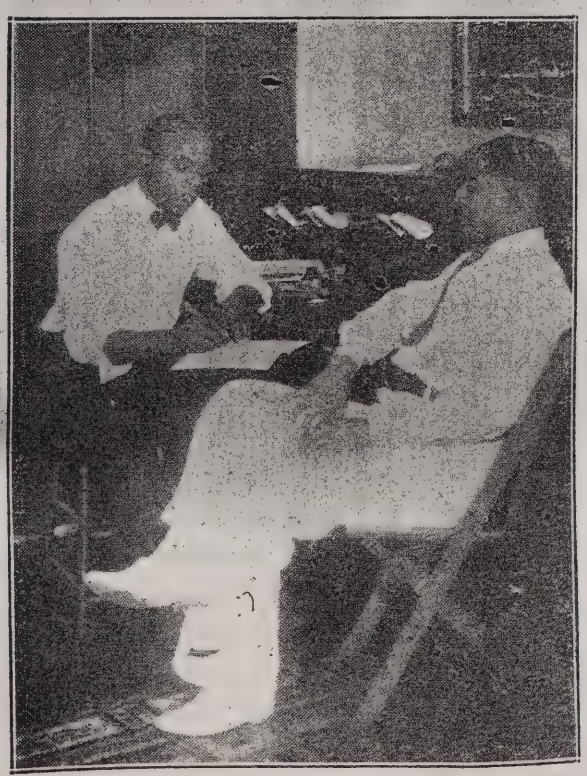
Farmers' Day

Friday, July 16, 1937

VIEWS OF A MODERN PLANTATION
Owned by Emmett Ford

Bolivar County Training School Auditorium

3:00 P. M.



County Agent A. M. Snowden,
Working on Soil Conservation Program.

Program

Song

Scripture ..... Rev. A. M. Snowden

Prayer

Song ..... Audience

Address: "My Ambition as a Future Farmer of Mound Bayou" ..... Mr. Alex Welch

Selection ..... Mound Bayou Jubilee Singers

Presentation of Hon. James P. Davis ..... Hon. B. A. Green

Address ..... Hon. James P. Davis,
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Little Rock, Ark.

Selection ..... Mound Bayou Jubilee Singers

Benediction

C. L. GIBSON, MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Top left, reading down, Principals of the Bolivar County Training School: J. H. Mosley, J. H. Powell, A. R. Taylor.

Right—reading down, top, Miss Virginia Montgomery, first public school teacher, center, Prof. B. F. Ousley, Principal of the Mound Bayou Normal and Industrial Institute, bottom, Mrs. Gertrude Jones-Bryant, Principal of the Mound Bayou Public School.

Leaders In Building Mound Bayou's School System

History of The Churches of Mound Bayou, Miss.

First Baptist Church

One of the first concerns of the early settlers was the establishment of churches. This is evidenced by the fact that early in 1888 the early settlers had erected a brush arbor under which community services were held. It is significant to note that among the early settlers denominational lines were little thought of. The entire church going population worshiped together and shared in common "Holy Communion." The brush arbor served as the "meeting grounds" for religious worship until 1891 when the Green Grove Baptist Church was erected with contributions received from all faiths and denominations represented by the inhabitants of the community. This edifice then served as the community church until 1895 when the inhabitants again united with a common purpose, erected the Bethel A. M. E. Church.

Among the early settlers responsible for the founding of the Green Grove Baptist Church are Mrs. Sallie Ramsay and Mrs. Matilda Davis, mothers of the Church; Mrs. Patsey Seals, Mrs. L. T. M. Brooks, Mrs. Mack Slate, church workers; George Kinkaid, Calvin Ramsay, Mathew Slate, Ridley Walker, Jackson Washington, and Marcus Anderson, trustees. Rev. Charlie Blackston was the first pastor.

The Green Grove Baptist Church is now known as the First Baptist Church later erected on its property purchased from Montgomery and Green one of the first brick churches in the county and a parsonage. The First Baptist Church has at present a membership of 175. Rev. A. D. Purnell is pastor.

(Continued on page 55

BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH

THE FIRST CHURCH IN MOUND BAYOU,
GREEN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

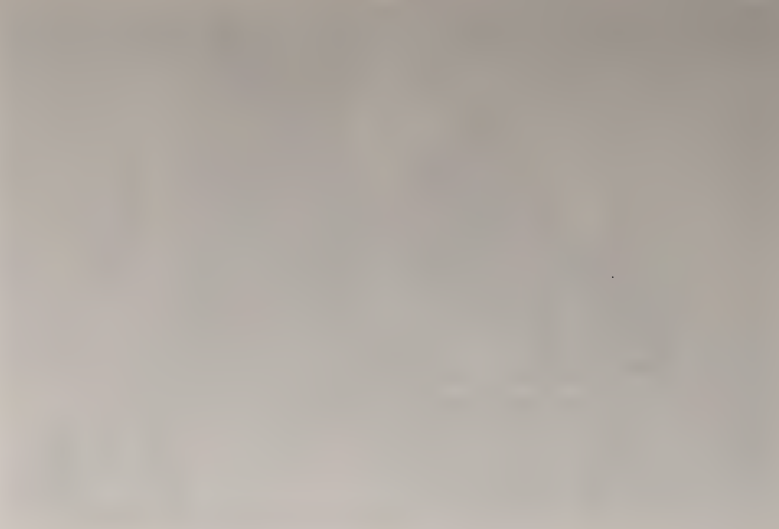
Continuation of Church History

(Continued from page 54)

Bethel A. M. E. Church also purchased its land from Montgomery and Green, and during the charge of Rev. H. L. Lewis, erected a modest church building in 1895. Among the early settlers prominently associated with the founding of Bethel are Mrs. Mollie Lee, Mrs. M. R. Montgomery, Mrs. Margarett Payne, Mrs. Amie Gaiter, I. T. Montgomery, John Payne, Samuel Thompson, Beverly J. Arrington, Rufus Williams, Alexander Meyers, Simon Gaitor, and Bristol Blunt. In 1904 under the pastorate of Rev. J. L. Brandford, Bethel erected a very beautiful edifice at a cost of $4,000. A parsonage was also erected. In 1918, however, the officials of the church built the most elaborate church in the community at a cost of $30,000. It is equipped with a modern pipe organ and a central heating plant. Recently it was reconditioned at a cost of $1,000. Among the later citizens prominently associated with the growth and development of Bethel are: Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Taylor, Rev. John Jones, Rev. S. P. Felder, A. M. Ross, R. B. Davis, Wm. Lewis, Nelson B. Jones, Charles Banks, Mrs. Minnie Jordan, Mrs. Gertrude Jones-Bryant, R. J. and A. L. Gardner.

Until a very recent date Rev. A. W. Jackson was the pastor of Bethel, but he has been elevated to the position of Presiding Elder of the Grenada District. At present the church is in charge of the Board of Trustees, composed of John Tharp, Chairman, Luther Johnson, William Findley, C. M. Powell, W. F. Davis, and D. J. Hills.

Other churches in the community include Jerusalem Baptist Church, Mount Olive Baptist Church, The Christian Church, Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, Liberty Baptist Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Beautiful Star Baptist Church, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, and Wanderer's Home Baptist Church.



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Dependable and Economical with Unexcelled Ambulance Service

Our Modern Equipment and Methods of Service, at lowest cost, are a few of our outstanding features. Our service covers the Delta like the dew.

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— Our Motto: "Unexcelled Service" —

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MOUND BAYOU
Phones 19 & 31

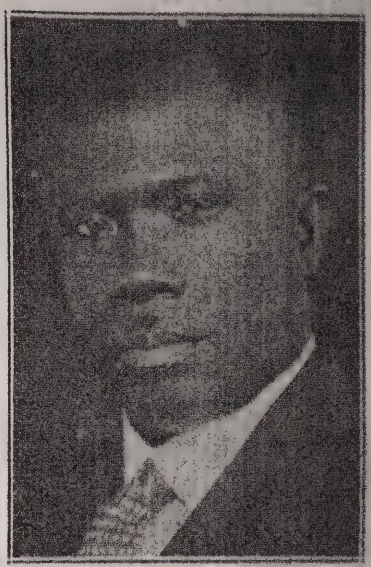
For Dependable Service Consult

The Benevolent Aid and Burial Society

"We strive to
Please You Always"

We can furnish any Funeral Supplies wanted.

We will be glad to quote you prices.



REV. B. J. SYKES,
Chairman Executive Board

Hon. S. H. Davis, Grand Financial Secy.

Hon. M. D. Hawkins, Grand Burial Treas.

Rev. E. D Russell, Grand Chief

Phone 2603

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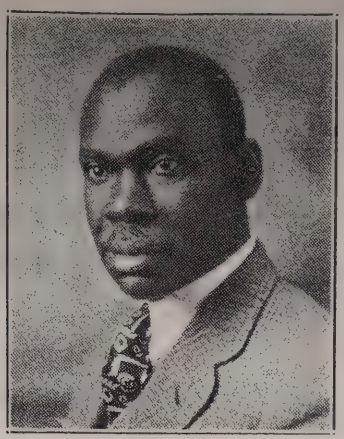

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SHELBY. MISSISSIPPI

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Office Phone 2845 Resident Phone 2294

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F. H. Miller

Cotton Company

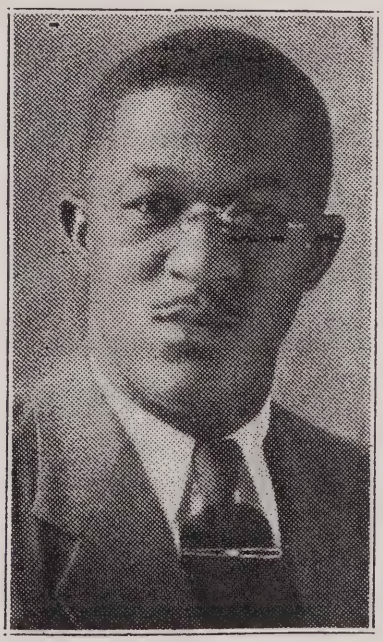
— Cotton Buyers —
— If You Can Sell —
— We Will Buy —

MOUND BAYOU, MISS.

Compliments of

One all Negro town to another

BOLEY, OKLA.



LETCHEN A. HILL, Mayor

Billikens' Night

Friday, July 16, 1937

BOLIVAR COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

8:00 P. M.

PROGRAM

Song

Scripture

Prayer

Remarks ..... Miss Beatrice Johnson, President, Mound Bayou Bud Billiken Club

Solo ..... Miss Armatha Thompson

Recitation ..... Mr. Willie Lee Martin

Recitation ..... Miss Lucille Washington

Solo ..... Miss Treola White

Novelty Dance ..... Misses Ouida Harris, Nouvella Allen, and Lois Morgan

Instrumental Solo ..... Miss Ethelda Wade

Address ..... Mr. David Ketchum
"Bud Billiken"

Acrobatics ..... Misses Estola Gant, Mary and Ruby White, Lois Morgan and others

Dance ..... Misses Vernetta Jordan, Justine Welch, Willie B. Bell and Celestine Ishmon

Solo ..... Miss Dorothy Herron

"Silently Steal Away" ..... Quartet

Recitation ..... Miss Virgiree Jordan

Piano Duet ..... Misses Beatrice Johnson and Shellie Glass

Recitation ..... Miss Barbara Crow

Compliments

QUITMAN

County

Where the Alluvial Soil of the Delta is the richest and where taxes are lowest and where opportunities are GREATEST.

10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
OF GRAVITATING UPWARD.

Delta Burial Corporation
INCORPORATED

DOMICILED AT MARKS, MISSISSIPPI
ORGANIZED IN 1927

WALTER C. RAIFORD
and SILAS KELLY
FOUNDERS

Out of the Fertile Brain of those two living Heroes, THE DELTA BURIAL CORPORATION has grown from a small Acorn to a Gigantic Towering Oak, which now stands as a Great Shelter for all the Negroes throughout the entire State of Mississippi.

The Delta Burial Corporation is a Million Dollar Concern.

Safe and Sound as the Rock of Gibraltar.

A. L. SADDLER,
General Manager and Director of Agents.

The only Corporation of its kind owned and operated by Negroes in the entire State of Mississippi.

The Delta Burial Corporation, under the management and direction of A. L. Saddler, of Marks; and R. I Drew, of Clarksdale, has builded a living monument worthy to be dedicated to the members of our rac Operating in our $5,000.00 Funeral Home, under a 50 Year Charter, with a membership of 16,000, not speal ing of the $10,000.00 deposited in cash with the State Insurance Department for the protection of our member

FUNERAL BENEFITS AS FOLLOWS:

Persons from the age of 21 to 45, for the small sum of 25c per month, are eligible to the following servic Semi Half Couch Casket and Box, Embalming, Robe and Hearse Service anywhere in the State of Mississipp We are seldom equalled and never excelled. Ambulance Service to our Members at one-half price within radius of 200 miles. We are in a position to have four funerals a day, with each of them 200 miles apart, an have each of them at the same hour.

WE HELP THE LIVING AS WELL AS THE DEAD.

162 Licensed Agents are receiving a livelihood from our concern. 11 people are receiving a salary $40.00 to $100.00 per month for office work. For the Year 1937, 12 Farmers have received money to mak crops with.

Rev. A. M. Metcalf, President Silas Kelley, Sec'y & Treasurer A. L. Saddler, Gen'l Manage

Board Members: Mrs. Hattie Johnson, D. Nickles, Frank Braughes M. H. Hudson, J. S. Mathew, Mrs. Leth Mathew, Prof. S. Kelley, Rev. A. M. Metcalf and A. L. Saddler.

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Leading Sellers of
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CAN BE PURCHASED FROM ANY DEALER

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